

## **September 29<sup>th</sup> news:**

### **National issues:**

#### **- Gujarat to be first big state to use EVMs with VVPAT**

Gujarat will be the first big state where the coming Assembly elections will be conducted with Electronic Voting Machine equipped with Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT). According to the State Chief Electoral Officer and Principal Secretary Mr. B. B. Sawain this is for the first time that entire Gujarat Assembly elections will be held using the with VVPAT covering all the 50,128 polling booths.

Giving demonstration of the EVM with VVPAT to news persons, Mr Sawain said that as many as 70,182 VVPAT machines will be used in the state for the Assembly elections. He said the VVPAT was also used on a pilot basis in 2012 in the state.

Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) or Verifiable Paper Record (VPR) is a method of providing feedback to voters using a ballotless voting system. A VVPAT is intended as an independent verification system for voting machines designed to allow voters to verify that their vote was cast correctly, to detect possible election fraud or malfunction, and to provide a means to audit the stored electronic results. It contains name of the candidate (for whom vote has been casted) and symbol of the party/ individual candidate

#### **- Committee on cyber crime submitted report**

A high-level committee set up to recommend new laws or amendments to deal with hate speech on the Internet, has submitted its report to the Home Ministry. The committee, headed by former Secretary General of the Lok Sabha, T K Viswanathan, has recommended appointing cybercrime coordinators in all states and establishing cybercrime cells in each district.

### **Economy issues:**

#### **- RBI raises foreign investor limits**

The Reserve Bank of India has increased foreign portfolio investors' investment limits in central and state government securities by an aggregate Rs 14,200 crore for the October-December period. The RBI also increased limits for investment by FPIs for the December quarter by Rs 8,000 crore in Central government securities and by Rs 6,200 crore in state development loans

Accordingly, the aggregate FPI limits have gone up to Rs 289,300 crore from the earlier Rs 275,100 crore. After the expansion the total investments permissible in G-secs will now stand at Rs 250,000 crore, while the same for state governments will be Rs 39,300 crore

The G-secs limits include a cap of Rs 189,700 crore in general securities, up from Rs 187,700 crore earlier, and Rs 60,300 crore in long term securities, up from the earlier Rs 54,300 crore.

**G-secs:** A government security (G-Sec) is a debt obligation of the Indian government to fund their fiscal deficit.

These instruments are tradable and are issued either by the central or the state government. These securities are offered for short term as well as long term. Short-term instruments with a maturity of less than one year are typically called treasury bills (T-Bills) whereas long-term instruments are called government bonds or dated securities with a maturity of one year or more.

However in India, the central government issues T-Bills as well as bonds or dated securities while the state government issues only the bonds or dated securities called State Development Loans (SDL).

The central government also issues not fully tradable savings instruments like savings bonds, national saving certificate etc or special securities like oil bonds, fertilizer bonds, power bonds

**Sports issues:**

- **India wins nine gold medals at 5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games**

The 5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games concluded at Ashgabat in Turkmenistan on 27<sup>th</sup> September. On the concluding day Indians grabbed four medals, including a gold through tennis player Sumit Nagal, to end at 11th place.